Sabha on 7.3.2001, which, *inter-alia*, seeks to ban on smoking in public places and sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age. The Bill is presently under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of Rajya Sabha.

Organ Transplant Act, 1994

3715. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Organ Transplant Act, 1994 banned donors and other relatives of patients from donating kidneys;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a ban; and

(c) whether it is not affecting the needy patients who are in dire need of kidneys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir, Under Sub-section (3) of section 9 of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, organs, including kidneys, from brain stem dead persons, including other relatives of patients, can be transplanted to the needy recipients. Moreover, the authorisation Committees constituted under clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (4) of section 9 of the said Act can also consider donation of human organs by non-related live donors.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting-up of special panel to monitor complaints of female foeticide

3716. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to set up a special panel to monitor complaints of female foeticide and the related diagnostic tests widely prevalent in the country, as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of specific role assigned and the penal powers, if any, vested in the panel;

(c) the difficulties encountered in administering the existing Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1993; and